

-nMBA- New Fine Arts Museum in Losanna

by Lorenzo Patella

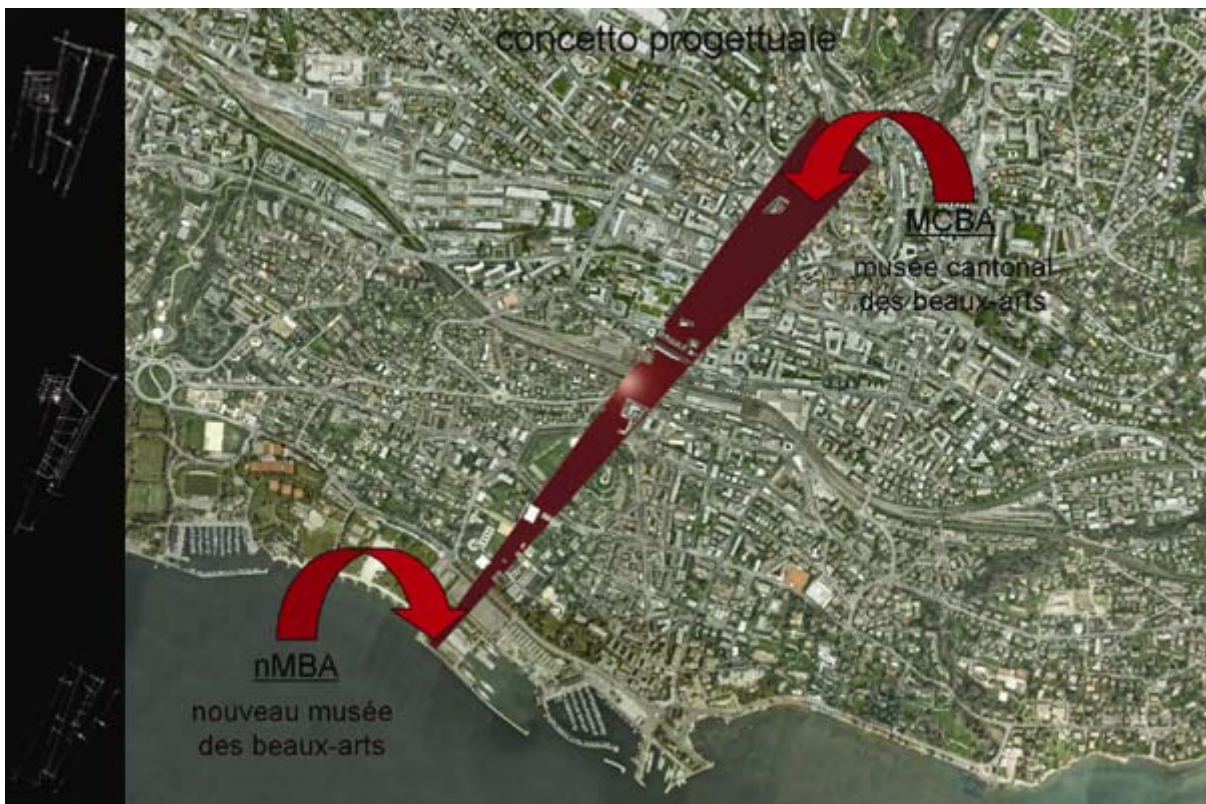
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The project for the nMBA (Nouveau Musée des Beaux-Arts) new building in Losanne (State of Vaud, Switzerland) was the topic of the international competition won by the architects M. Berrel, R. Kräutler and Ch. Wülser, with the project called YING YANG. The reason for a new building is that the actual location of the museum would compromise its future. Moreover the new structure is expected to be in agreement with the new regulations in matter of preservation and expositions of works of art and to be wide enough to answer the actual and future needs.

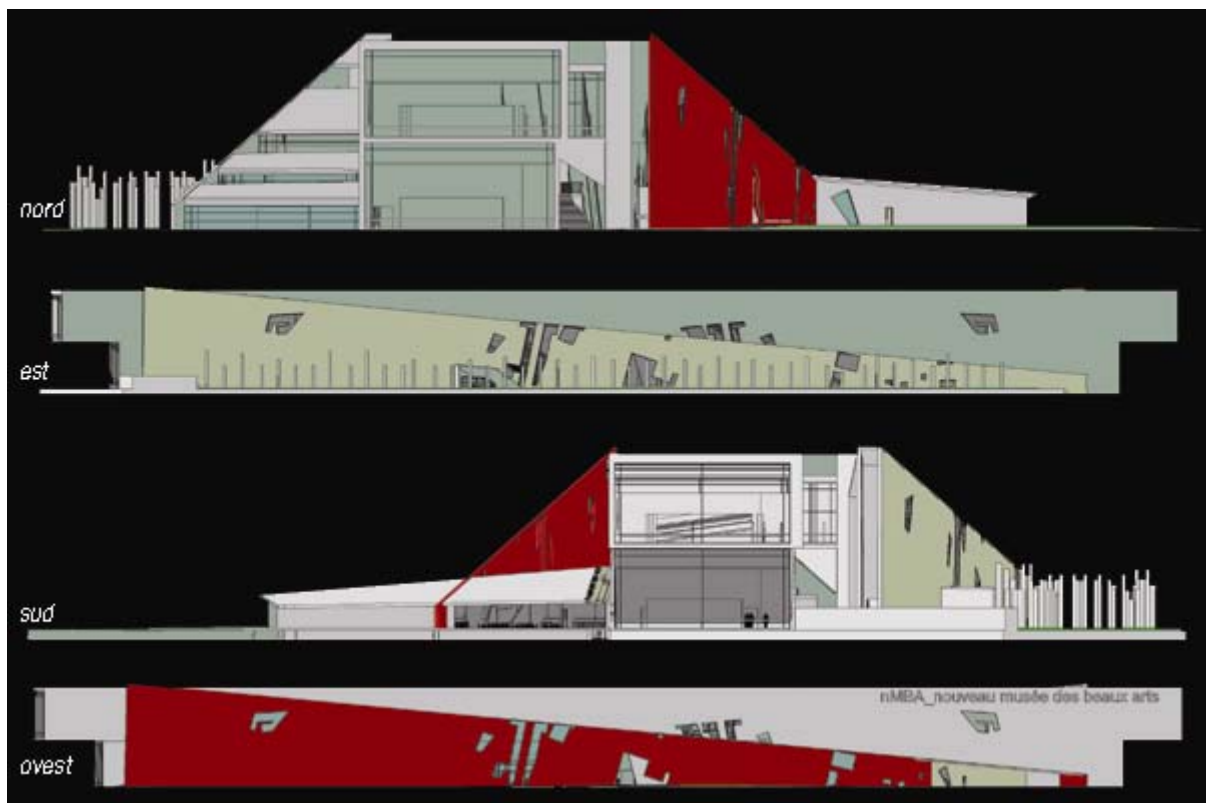
In the project phase I took inspiration from Daniel Libeskind's projects, not easy to interpret, but definitely able to arouse strong emotions. For Libeskind the architecture is based on well established concepts, which are beyond the shape of buildings.

While studying and observing his work, it immediately comes to mind how important is for a work of architecture to have a soul and not simply be a building.



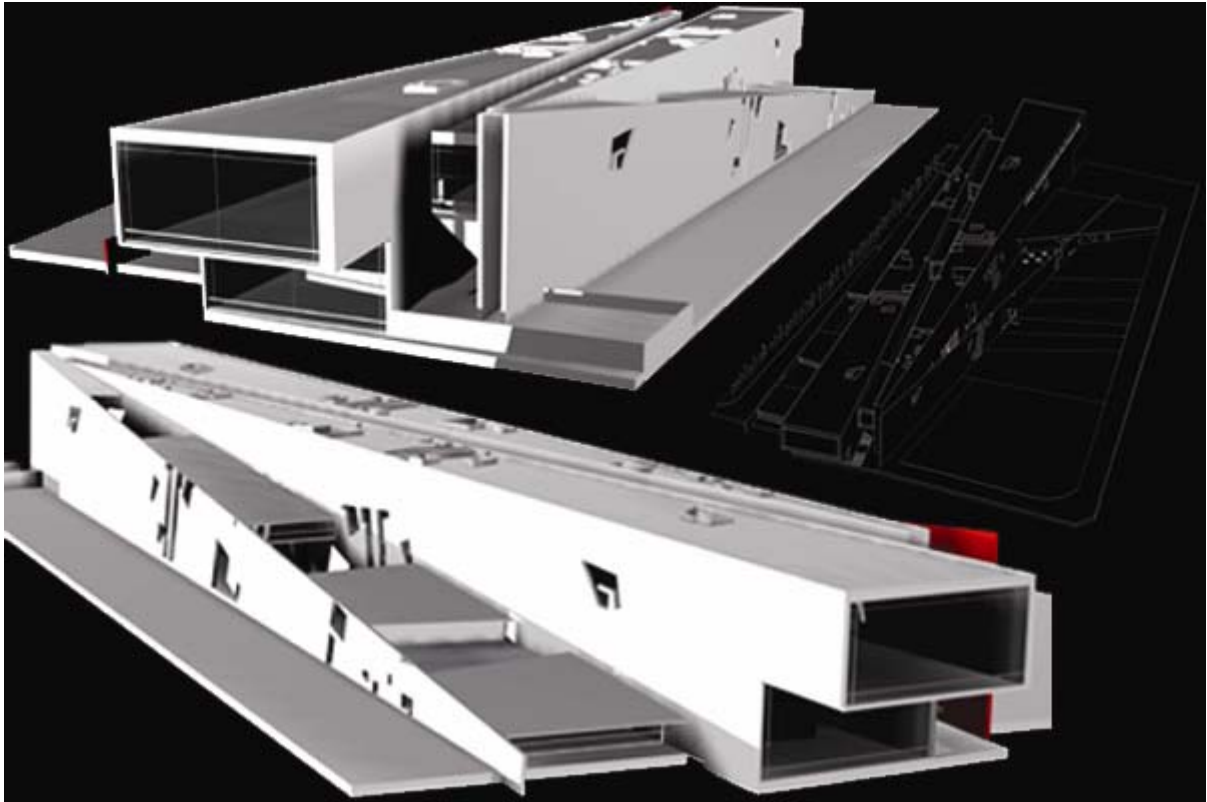
Project idea

In the project I tried to express Daniel Libeskind's philosophy, keeping in mind the connection with the history of the town. I did not focus only on the project area, but I considered the town itself part of the project, avoiding the spatial limitations. The basic concept rise from the design of a "visual cone", which virtually links the areas dedicated to the new and the old buildings, over the town and the areas nearby. Inside the "visual cone" I selected some buildings relevant for the town, as well as gardens and roads. Each of these areas acquired a critical and changeable role inside my project. In this way the museum, not only integrates inside the town, but becomes an important part of it. In the opposite way, the town becomes an integral part of the project. At times, the town is a glance on itself through the windows, or penetrates into the museum as a ray of light.



Prospectus

The upper floor of the museum is composed of structures, which extend either towards the lake or the town, generating a link between them. The walls (which I called "the filter"), are the vehicle to make the external space become the internal. The holes on the walls (the same on the front wall and on the roof) are filled by the town. The red colour I used and the basic concept, both come from Daniel Libeskind's studies during the 80's. In particular his research on the concept of "endless line", which lead to the installation "line of fire", held in Geneva. In the case of my project the endless line is represented by the walls (the filter), which connect the town and make it be infinite.



Museum's rendering and axonometric

Considerable attention has been given to the alternation of public areas and areas strictly part of the museum. I made possible to walk from the cafeteria to the polyvalent area and all the way down to the indoor garden, passing through the spacious exposition rooms. The entire way is studied in order to exalt the external landscape and the museum structure, without getting the visitors confused. Independent areas were planned for the temporal and the permanent expositions, giving the opportunity to change their use. As explanation for my choice in planning the new nMBA building I could quote Daniel Libeskind: "A great work of architecture, as well as any great piece of literature or music, can tell the history of the human soul".

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